

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 SSM-03 MCT-01 HA-05 /110 W
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R 281549Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5934
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 3910

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PBOR, OAU, SS, MO
SUBJ: SAHARA: OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND SUMMIT CONFERENCES,
KHARTOUM, JULY 1978

REF: A. STATE 155074, B. CAIRO 15353, C. STATE 163024

1. MOROCCAN STRATEGY ON THE SAHARA FOR THE UPCOMING KHARTOUM
OAU MEETINGS IS PUBLICLY FUZZY AND PROBABLY PURPOSELY
SO. ON THE ONE HAND, THE KING TOLD RADIO FRANCE INTER
JUNE 16 (RABAT 3748) THAT IF--AS HE HOPED--OAU SUMMIT
EVOKED SAHARA THE QUESTION WOULD BE SETTLED ONCE AND
FOR ALL AS MOROCCO'S CASE WAS A GOOD ONE. SO MUCH FOR
THE PUBLIC POSITION, WHICH REMAINS ESSENTIALLY WHAT IT
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ALWAYS HAS BEEN.

2. IN PRIVATE, MOROCCAN OFFICIALS ARE SOMEWHAT MORE
CAUTIOUS. ACTING FONMIN BADDU TOLD AMBASSADOR JUNE 22
THAT MOROCCO HAD NOTHING TO FEAR IF SUBJECT AROSE, BUT HE
COULD NOT PREDICT HOW THINGS MIGHT GO. HE REGOGNIZED
THAT OAU HANDLING OF MATTER WOULD AFFECT UNGA CONSIDER-

ATION OF PROBLEM.

3. MFA AFRICA DIVISION DIRECTOR MOHAMED HALIM WAS MORE SPECIFIC WITH EMBOFF DURING JUNE 14 MEETING. HE SAID THAT GOM GREATLY FEARED "ALGERIAN-PROVOKED CLEAVAGE" AT KHARTOUM. ALGERIANS WISHED TO SEE ISSUE RAISED AND NOT RESOLVED SO THEY COULD GO TO UNGA FOR SOLUTION. THERE MIGHT BE ALTERNATIVE TO THIS AT KHARTOUM, HE HINTED IN THE APPOINTMENT OF A COMMITTEE OF WISEMEN WHICH COULD BE CHARGED TO DEAL WITH THE QUESTION.

4. COMMENT: WE ARE STRUCK WITH SIMILARITY OF HALIM'S ANALYSIS TO THAT OF EGYPTIANS (REFTEL B). WE BELIEVE MOROCCAN STRATEGY STILL UNFOLDING TO COPE WITH WHATEVER SITUATION MIGHT DEVELOP IN KHARTOUM, BUT THE "MODERATES" MAY BE WORKING TOGETHER TO SOME EXTENT. IT SEEMS UNLIKELY, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT THE SUDAN WOULD SIMPLY ANNOUNCE ITS UNWILLINGNESS TO HOST EXTRAORDINARY SAHARA SUMMIT WITHOUT A GOM NOD. MEANWHILE FONMIN BOUCETTA RECENTLY COMPLETED FOUR-DAY VISIT TO KHARTOUM, AND HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH OAU SUMMIT HOSTS NO DOUBT COVERED MORE THAN BILATERAL QUESTIONS.

5. WE WILL BE CONSULTING IN NEXT FEWS DAYS WITH MFA ON OTHER ASPECTS OF OAU MEETING, AS INSTRUCTED REFTELS A AND C.
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